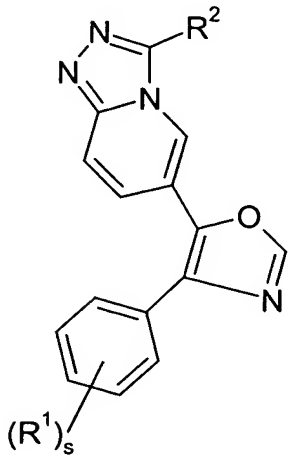
CLAIMS

1. A compound of the formula



I

wherein R^1 is fluoro;

s is an integer from two to three;

R^2 is $(C_3\text{-}C_6)$cycloalkyl optionally substituted by one or two moieties independently selected from the group consisting of halo, $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl, hydroxy, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, and $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-O-;

or R^2 is $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl optionally substituted by one or two moieties independently selected from the group consisting of halo, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, hydroxy, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy and $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-O-;

with the proviso that said compound of formula I cannot be

6-[4-(2,4-Difluoro-phenyl)-oxazol-5-yl]-3-isopropyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine; or

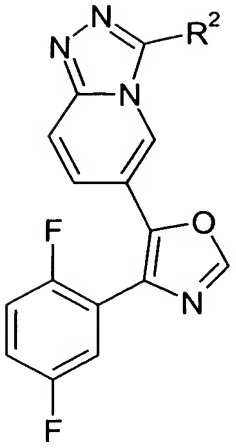
6-[4-(3,4-Difluoro-phenyl)-oxazol-5-yl]-3-isopropyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^2 is optionally substituted $(C_3\text{-}C_6)$cycloalkyl.

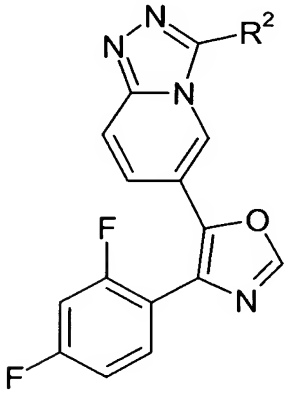
3. A compound according to claim 2 wherein R^2 is optionally substituted cyclopropyl, or cyclobutyl.

4. A compound according to claim 3, wherein the compound has the formula



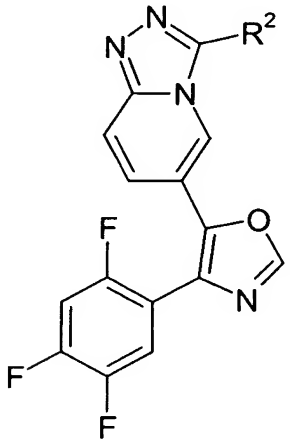
Ia

5. A compound according to claim 3, wherein the compound has the formula



Ib

6. A compound according to claim 3, wherein the compound has the formula



Ic

7. A compound according to claim 3, wherein R^2 is $(C_3\text{-}C_6)$cycloalkyl.

8. A compound according to claim 2, wherein R^2 is $(C_3\text{-}C_6)$cycloalkyl substituted with one or two $(C_1\text{-}C_3)$alkyl.

9. A compound according to claim 2, wherein R^2 is $(C_3\text{-}C_6)$cycloalkyl substituted with one or two methyl groups.

10. A compound according to claim 2, wherein R^2 is $(C_3\text{-}C_6)$cycloalkyl substituted with one $(C_1\text{-}C_3)$alkyl.

11. A compound according to claim 2, wherein R^2 is $(C_3\text{-}C_6)$cycloalkyl substituted with one methyl, ethyl or propyl group.

12. A compound according to claim 1, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

3-Cyclobutyl-6-[4-(2,5-difluoro-phenyl)-oxazol-5-yl]-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine;

6-[4-(2,4-Difluoro-phenyl)-oxazol-5-yl]-3-(1-methyl-cyclopropyl)-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine;

6-[4-(2,5-Difluoro-phenyl)-oxazol-5-yl]-3-(1-methyl-cyclopropyl)-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine;

3-Cyclopropyl-6-[4-(2,5-difluoro-phenyl)-oxazol-5-yl]-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine; and

3-Cyclopropyl-6-[4-(2,4-difluoro-phenyl)-oxazol-5-yl]-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine.

13. A compound according to claim 2, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

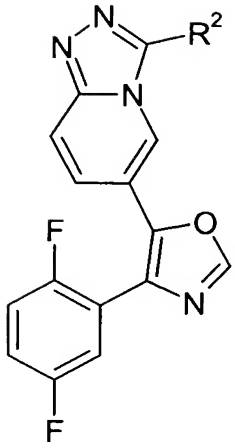
3-Cyclopropyl-6-[4-(2,4,5-trifluoro-phenyl)-oxazol-5-yl]-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine; and

3-(1-Methyl-cyclopropyl)-6-[4-(2,4,5-trifluoro-phenyl)-oxazol-5-yl]-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine.

14. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^2 is $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl optionally substituted with one or two groups independently selected from halo, hydroxy, and $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy.

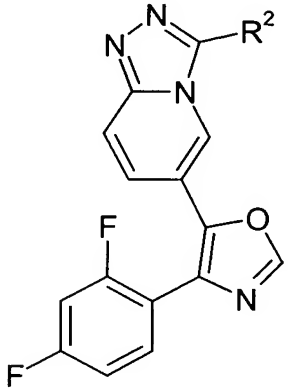
15. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^2 is optionally substituted ethyl, isopropyl, isobutyl, t-butyl or sec-butyl.

16. A compound according to claim 14, wherein the compound has the formula



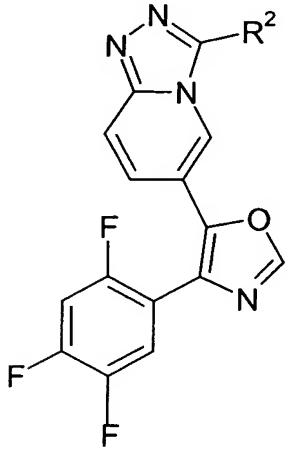
Ia

17. A compound according to claim 14, wherein the compound has the formula



Ib

18. A compound according to claim 14, wherein the compound has the formula



Ic

19. A compound according to claim 14, wherein R^2 is $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, optionally substituted with halo or hydroxy.

20. A compound according to claim 14, wherein R^2 is ethyl, isopropyl, isobutyl, t-butyl or sec-butyl; optionally substituted with a halo or hydroxy.

21. A compound according to claim 14, wherein R^2 is $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl.

22. A compound according to claim 14, wherein said compound is 3-tert-butyl-6-[4-(2,4-difluoro-phenyl)-oxazol-5-yl]-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine.

23. A compound according to claim 14, wherein said compound is 6-[4-(2,5-difluoro-phenyl)-oxazol-5-yl]-3-isopropyl-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine.

24. A compound according to claim 14, wherein said compound is 3-tert-butyl-6-[4-(2,5-difluoro-phenyl)-oxazol-5-yl]-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine.

25. A compound according to claim 14, wherein said compound is 3-tert-butyl-6-[4-(2,4,5-trifluoro-phenyl)-oxazol-5-yl]-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine.

26. A compound according to claim 14, wherein said compound is 3-isopropyl-6-[4-(2,4,5-trifluoro-phenyl)-oxazol-5-yl]-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine.

27. A compound according to claim 14, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

3-Isopropyl-6-[4-(2,3,4-trifluoro-phenyl)-oxazol-5-yl]-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine;

3-Isopropyl-6-[4-(2,3,5-trifluoro-phenyl)-oxazol-5-yl]-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine;

3-Isopropyl-6-[4-(2,4,6-trifluoro-phenyl)-oxazol-5-yl]-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine; and

3-Isopropyl-6-[4-(3,4,5-trifluoro-phenyl)-oxazol-5-yl]-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridine.

28. A method of treating an MAP kinase mediated disease in a mammal in need thereof, which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

29. A method of treating a p38 kinase mediated disease in a mammal in need thereof, which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

30. A method for treating a condition selected from the group consisting of arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, Reiter's syndrome, rheumatoid arthritis, gout, traumatic arthritis, rubella arthritis and acute synovitis, rheumatoid arthritis, rheumatoid spondylitis, osteoarthritis, gouty arthritis and other arthritic condition, sepsis, septic shock, endotoxic shock, gram negative sepsis, toxic shock syndrome, Alzheimer's disease, stroke, neurotrauma, asthma, adult respiratory distress syndrome, cerebral malaria, chronic pulmonary inflammatory disease, silicosis, pulmonary sarcoidosis, bone resorption disease, osteoporosis, restenosis, cardiac and renal reperfusion injury, thrombosis, glomerularonephritis, diabetes, graft vs. host reaction, allograft rejection, inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, multiple sclerosis, muscle degeneration, eczema, contact dermatitis, psoriasis, sunburn, and

conjunctivitis shock in a mammal, including a human, comprising administering to said mammal an amount of a compound according to claim 1 effective in treating such a condition.

31. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a condition selected from the group consisting of arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, Reiter's syndrome, rheumatoid arthritis, gout, traumatic arthritis, rubella arthritis and acute synovitis, rheumatoid arthritis, rheumatoid spondylitis, osteoarthritis, gouty arthritis and other arthritic condition, sepsis, septic shock, endotoxic shock, gram negative sepsis, toxic shock syndrome, Alzheimer's disease, stroke, neurotrauma, asthma, adult respiratory distress syndrome, cerebral malaria, chronic pulmonary inflammatory disease, silicosis, pulmonary sarcoidosis, bone resorption disease, osteoporosis, restenosis, cardiac and renal reperfusion injury, thrombosis, glomerularonephritis, diabetes, graft vs. host reaction, allograft rejection, inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, multiple sclerosis, muscle degeneration, eczema, contact dermatitis, psoriasis, sunburn, and conjunctivitis shock in a mammal, including a human, comprising an amount of a compound of claim 1 effective in such treatment and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

32. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a condition which can be treated by the inhibition of MAP kinase in a mammal, including a human, comprising an amount of a compound of claim 1 effective in such treatment and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

33. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a condition which can be treated by the inhibition of p38 kinase in a mammal, including a human, comprising an amount of a compound of claim 1 effective in such treatment and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.